

Accounting Matters



As I was flipping through this edition of the Magazine, the term “sustainability” jumped at me quite a few times, not only on page 2 under the rubric of Accounting for Sustainability (A4S), but also elsewhere.

This should not be surprising as this mirrors developments in the field of accounting and commentaries in the press, where it shows up under such monikers as CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), ESG (environmental, social, and corporate governance), the three Ps (people, planet and profits – in this or another order), TBL (triple bottom line), and as part of <IR> (integrated reporting), just to name some. Regardless of the terms used, the important thing is that this is something we are following closely, in our teaching and research.

We do this through our characteristic economic, institutional and organisational lenses, and I am pleased that our research has been recognized in the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) as, well, excellent, not only for articles and books (page 2), but also for Mike Power’s significant impact case study (page 8). It is interesting to note that much of this research’s impact has come about through involvements over the years with our departmental research unit, the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR), which under the leadership of Andrea Mennicken and Martin Lodge is brimming with new initiatives and has been successful in attracting funding (pages 6-7). This bodes well for future research impacts.

A new feature of this edition of the Magazine is what we called “research focus” where we highlight some of our research in blog-style. We have one feature on credit ratings by Ane Tamayo (page 4) and one by myself on target ratcheting (page 17). I hope you will find these research summaries indicative of the relevance of our research, an issue I also spoke about at the AAA’s *Journal of Management Accounting Research* panel (page 9).

We have had a busy year with various journal events. We held the *Accounting, Organizations and Society* (page 5) and *Management Accounting Research* (page 12) anniversary conferences, as well as the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* annual conference (page 15). Colleagues in the department are very well represented on these journal’s editorial and review boards, as well as on those of various other journals (pages 20-21). We also held the MASOP workshop (page 11), our unique annual mixed academic-practice MARG conference (page 13), and we were very well represented both with PhD students (three) as well as faculty (Peter Pope and myself) on the EAA Doctoral Colloquium at St Andrews (page 14). We also happened to have two journal editors give seminars in our vibrant and diverse seminar and workshop series (page 22).

We had two public lectures, one by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus (page 3), and one by LSE Centennial Professor David Stark in CARR (page 7). Our very own Peter Miller was awarded an honorary doctorate from Paris Dauphine (page 3), his second honorary doctorate in as many years.

The department wouldn’t be what it is if it weren’t for its excellent students, from undergraduate to graduate to postgraduate. In this Magazine, we have a series of reflections from each about their lives and experiences at LSE (see pages 10, 14, 15, 16). We also have listed the former students who have donated to the department in recent years (pages 23-24), for which we are immensely grateful. It helps us do things that otherwise we would not be able to, benefiting our current students. Some also generously give prizes for outstanding student performance (page 23). But the gift that keeps on giving is seeing nearly 400 students graduate from the department each year, shaped not only by what we taught them, and apparently taught them well judged by the teaching prizes that our faculty have won (page 19), but also significantly by their entire LSE experience (page 18). As I write this, the arrival of the next class of eager, budding young minds is looming. We welcome them, as we do all visitors and friends of the department.

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